

10 Tips On STRANGER DANGER

AMERICAN CHILDREN'S

SAFETY SOURCE 

1. Teach your child your telephone number including area code, your full address, and how to use the telephone to call home, a law enforcement officer, 9-1-1 or dial "0" for an operator in an emergency. Also, teach your child his or her full name and both parents' full names.

2. Keep an up-to-date file on your child. Include a recent photograph and physical description. Update the information regularly. Files on younger children should be updated several times a year.

3. Make a mental note of the clothing your child wears EACH DAY. Avoid putting your child's name on the outside of clothes or on books or bags. Children may respond more readily to a person who calls them by name.

4. Be sure your child knows what to do in case he or she becomes separated from you while shopping. Your child should not look for you but should go immediately to the nearest clerk or security guard and ask for help.

5. Choose a secret code word to use in case of an emergency. Your child should only go with someone who knows the code word. Change the code word every so often.

6. Have a set of your child's footprints or fingerprints taken by local law enforcement or qualified professionals and be able to locate dental records if necessary.

7. Instruct your child's school to notify you immediately if your child is absent. Inform the principal of persons who are authorized to pick your child up from school. Try to have the same person pick up your child every day.

8. Alert your child to some of the tactics used by abductors to lure children away such as asking for help or offering money or candy. Tell your child to stay at least an arm's length away and advise them how to respond in these situations such as yelling "FIRE" to attract attention or saying "THIS IS NOT MY MOM (OR DAD)" and to get away fast.

9. Check your child's route to and from school. Call attention to any dangerous spots such as vacant lots, alleyways, etc. Advise them as to what to do if a strange person follows or approaches them. Encourage your child to use the buddy system whenever possible.

10. Encourage neighbors to participate in a "safe home" program. Establish safe homes in your neighborhood where children can go for help.